GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
SSA PROJECT
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether SSA norms do not provide for inclusion of expenditure on free text books to students of primary schools in SSA budget if concerned State Government was providing free text books to students at the time of commencement of SSA projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to change the norms and include the expenditure on providing free text books to be included in SSA budget for all States without any restriction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to reimburse the expenditure borne by the State Government of Gujarat on meeting expenditure for providing free text books; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (f) Yes, Madam. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) free text books are provided to all children in the age group of 6-14 years at a unit cost of Rs 150 per set for the primary stage and Rs 250 per set for the upper primary stage. However, if the textbooks were previously provided from State budgets, the States will continue to provide them.

The SSA supports States/UTs as a supplementary source of funding for providing quality universal elementary education and does not substitute for the investment already being made by the States/UTs.